

light source, and scanning a surface of said photosensitive body by the thus-deflected light flux,

wherein said apparatus is configured such that new dots are formed centered between adjacent light fluxes when an exposure intensity exceeds 50% of a maximum value there, and

c1 wherein a ratio of a static beam-spot diameter  $W_s$  in a sub-scan direction on the surface of said photosensitive body defined by  $1/e^2$  of a maximum value in an exposure distribution of the beam spot to an interval  $L$  between adjacent scan lines satisfies the following formula:

$$1.2 < W_s/L < 4.5$$

to thereby form said new dots between adjacent scan lines in a manner to increase resolution in the sub-scan direction.

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7. (Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a photosensitive means; and

an optical scanning device having a deflecting means for deflecting a light flux emitted by light emitting means, and scanning a surface of said photosensitive means by the thus-deflected light flux,

c2 wherein new dots are formed centered between adjacent light fluxes when an exposure intensity exceeds 50% of a maximum value there, and

wherein a ratio of a static beam-spot diameter  $W_s$  in a sub-scan direction on a surface of said photosensitive means defined by  $1/e^2$  of a maximum value in an exposure distribution of the beam spot to an interval  $L$  between adjacent scan lines satisfies the following formula:

$$1.2 < W_s/L < 4.5$$

to thereby form said new dots between adjacent scan lines in a manner to increase resolution in the sub-scan direction.

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